(c) if so, by when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) An updating survey for a new line linking Bhiwadi to Delhi-Ahmedabad BG line (27 kms) has been completed recently. As per the survey report, the cost of this new line has been assessed as Rs. 153.73 crore. North Western Railway has been asked to review the cost of the proposed line.

Running of Janta trains

†2388. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of passengers travelling in general bogies of train is five times the number of seats;

(b) if so, whether Government proposes to run any Janta train for them, so that, Ijjat pass provided by Government can prove to be effective; and

(c) if so, the time by when the train would be run, and if not, the details of the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) General unreserved coaches are normally over crowded.

(b) and (c) New trains introduced normally have general bogies, some of which may be utilized by monthly pass holders. However, presently there is no proposal to start a Janata Train.

Toilets and urinals at platforms

2389. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:
SHRI NAND KISHORE YADAV:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railway Board has prescribed requirement of toilets and urinals to be provided at platforms as well as in waiting halls/sheds and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether most of the platforms/waiting halls/sheds do not have the prescribed number of toilets and urinals and if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether most of the existing toilets and urinals are in unusable condition and if so, the steps taken to provide clean and hygienic urinals/toilets on platforms etc. for the benefit of passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Comprehensive instructions already exist for provision of passenger amenities including

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

toilets and urinals at stations. The details of norms for quantum of Minimum Essential Amenities for toilets and urinals at various categories of station are as under:—

Category of station	A-1	A	B	C	D	E	F
No. of urinals	12	10	6	4	4	1	—
No. of toilets	12	10	6	2	4	1	—

(b) and (c) All minimum essential amenities including toilets and urinals have been provided at platforms and waiting halls/sheds at all railway stations as per the prescribed norms. Further augmentation of toilet/urinal facilities is undertaken through Annual Works Programme as and when warranted depending upon availability of funds and other relative priorities. The existing toilets and urinals are kept in usable condition through regular cleaning and maintenance.

To have clean and hygienic conditions on platforms, steps like introduction of mechanized cleaning, provision of "Pay and Use" toilets, cleanliness awareness campaigns etc. have been undertaken. Regular inspections are conducted by various officials at the railway stations to monitor cleanliness and also to identify weak areas and take remedial measures.

Railway projects affected by spiralling prices of steel

2390. SHRI NANDAMURI HARIKRISHNA:
SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) to what extent the spiralling prices of steel has been affecting the on-going railway projects;

(b) whether it is a fact that some of the contractors are threatening to pull out of the works in view of spiralling steel prices;

(c) the details of reports from zonal railways with regard to delay in execution of works, particularly from the SCR; and

(d) what is the outcome of the recently held 'Infrastructure Builders Meet'?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The abnormal increase in prices of steel had been one of the major reasons adversely affecting progress of ongoing projects. However, of late, prices of steel have been showing downward trend.

(b) The contractors were demanding suitable compensation for such abnormal hike in price of steel in the market.

(c) Targeted projects are not delayed except Jaggayapet-Mallacheruvu in South Central Railway where delay is due to change in alignment as per suggestion of beneficiaries and delay in land acquisition. There has been some delay in supply of concrete sleepers for targeted works.